

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

By this amendment, claims 1, 9, 20, 21, 22, 54, 56, and 144 are amended. Claims 2, 19, and 145-147 were canceled by previous amendment. Claims 130-143 have been withdrawn from consideration. Thus, claims 1, 3-18, 20-129, 144, and 148-190 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1, 3-8, 16-18, 25-53, and 57-96 are allowed, and that claims 9-15, 20-24, 54-56, 98-129, and 144-185 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections and claim objections.

Formal Matters

Claims 9-15, 20-24, 56, and 144-185 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 9, 20, 21, 22, 56, and 144 have been amended responsive to this rejection.

Claims 54 and 97 are objected to as containing informalities. Claims 54 and 97 have been amended responsive to this objection.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and objections.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, the Applicants submit that the claims now pending recite patentable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event that this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 026880-00018.

Respectfully submitted,



Wilburn L. Chesser
Registration Number 41,668

Customer Number 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036-5339
Telephone: 202-857-6000
Fax: 202-638-4810

WC/SCO:vmh